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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Note by the secretariat

1 In its resolution 1999/56 entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out, immediately after the signing of a ceasefire agreement or as soon as security considerations permit and, where appropriate, in cooperation with the National Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) between 1996 and 1997, a joint mission to investigate all massacres carried out on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including those in the province of South Kivu, and other atrocities as referred to in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (E/CN.4/1999/31), with a view to bringing those responsible to justice, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

GE.99-16289 (E)

2. Although a ceasefire agreement was signed on 10 July 1999 in Lusaka by the six parties to the conflict, and then by the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) and the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) on 1 and 31 August respectively, the insecurity prevailing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in general and in the province of South Kivu in particular has prevented the deployment of the joint mission of inquiry. Consequently, the joint mission will not be able to submit to the Commission the report it requested. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will nevertheless give an update on the situation of the joint mission of inquiry at the time of the oral presentation of his report (E/CN.4/2000/42) to the Commission on Human Rights.